

From: Tony Sabbadini
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/2/02 6:41pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear United States Department of Justice,

Thank you for showing concern for the American consumer with regard to the Microsoft Anti-trust case.

As a consumer, however, I feel that by opposing the recent settlement between Microsoft and the US DOJ, one lengthens an already costly trial and casts more uncertainty over our economy. The settlement addresses the most important issue that originally brought about the anti-trust case: Microsoft's bullying of the original equipment manufacturers (OEMs). Under the proposed settlement, Microsoft can no longer punish (by raising prices) the OEMs for offering competing software vendors' products on the Windows Desktop. To make sure Microsoft acquiesces, three on-site compliance agents will monitor the company closely. These steps have a net effect of offering the consumer more choice. Thankfully, the settlement does not place any bundling restrictions on Microsoft. Although many criticize this Microsoft practice (primarily competitors...), bundling gives the software customer seamless integration and a lower total cost of ownership. If Microsoft has done anything to benefit the software customer, it has created a platform universally available across the world at a relatively low price. I urge the adoption of the settlement.

Thank you,

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